

ABSTRACT

PROCESS

5 The present invention provides a process for the preparation of an MR contrast agent, said process comprising:

i) obtaining a solution in a solvent of a hydrogenatable, unsaturated substrate compound and a catalyst for the hydrogenation of said substrate compound;

10 ii) introducing said solution in droplet form into a chamber containing hydrogen gas (H_2) enriched in para-hydrogen ($p-^1H_2$) and/or ortho-deuterium ($o-^2H_2$) whereby to hydrogenate said substrate to form a hydrogenated imaging agent;

15 iii) optionally subjecting said hydrogenated imaging agent to a magnetic field having a field strength below earth's ambient field strength;

iv) optionally dissolving said imaging agent in an aqueous medium;

20 v) optionally separating said catalyst from the solution of said imaging agent in said aqueous medium;

vi) optionally separating said solvent from the solution of said imaging agent in said aqueous medium; and

vii) optionally freezing the solution of said imaging agent in said aqueous medium.